

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. Also, please add new claims 10-12 as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A casting die ~~(10)~~ comprising:  
a main body ~~(12)~~ having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity; and  
a cavity forming member ~~(14)~~ having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity;  
said main body ~~(12)~~ being made of steel, the steel being an SCM material or an SKD material;  
said cavity forming member ~~(14)~~ being made of maraging steel or an SKH material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the SCM material or the SKD material which said main body ~~(12)~~ is made of.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A casting die ~~(10)~~ according to claim 1, wherein said cavity forming member ~~(14)~~ is provided as an insert die.

4. (Currently amended) A casting die ~~(10)~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member ~~(14)~~ is disposed in a position closest to said gate.

5. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a casting die ~~(10)~~ having a main body ~~(12)~~ having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming member ~~(14)~~ having a

wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, comprising the steps of:

forming a main body (12) of steel with a mold cavity defined thereby;  
defining a recess (32) in a portion of said mold cavity; and  
placing a cavity forming member (14) made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the steel which said main body (12) is made of, in said recess (32) in said main body (12).

6.( Currently amended ) A method of manufacturing a casting die (10) having a main body (12) having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming member (14) having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, comprising the step of:

placing, in a portion of the mold cavity in the main body (12) which has been used in a casting process, a cavity forming member (14) made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than steel which said main body (12) is made of.

7.( Currently amended ) A method according to claim 5 ~~or~~ 6, wherein said cavity forming member (14) comprises an overlay deposited by welding.

8.( Currently amended ) A method according to claim 5 ~~or~~ 6, wherein said cavity forming member (14) comprises an insert die fitted in or joined to said main body (12).

9.( Currently amended ) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 5 to 8, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member (14) is disposed in a position closest to said gate.

10. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein said cavity forming member

comprises an overlay deposited by welding.

11. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein said cavity forming member comprises an insert die fitted in or joined to said main body.

12. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member is disposed in a position closest to said gate.